

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2016 REPORT

Women's activities at St. Peter Church are coordinated by a board comprised of elected officers, one or more appointed Mission chairpersons, and the circle presidents/co-presidents. The following women served in 2016:

President: Sheila Mixdorf  
Vice-President: Dori Jurgenson  
Secretary: Sheryl Moeller  
Treasurer: Brenda Wolter  
Mission Action: Dorothy Eggena, Elaine Dove, Carol Nostrum  
Mission Growth: Gretchen Syhre, Sheila Mixdorf  
Mission Community: Joyce Miller  
Ruth Circle Co-Presidents: Pat Leonhart and Sheila Mixdorf  
Mary Circle President: Elaine Dove  
Naomi Circle Co-Presidents: Carolee Oberheu and Joyce Miller

The circles meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study, using the lessons in *Gather*, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA.

WELCA sponsored a tour of Retrieving Freedom in Waverly on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Womenfest continues to meet on Tuesday morning as a community group, with attendees from several churches. It is led by Pastor Craig Henderson.

Congregational and community service projects included responsibility of delivery of Meals on Wheels in March and April; Bingo every other month at Sunset Home; Wellness Screening in cooperation with Allen Hospital on April 21, where 51 participants from the community were served; support for the Wartburg Social Work Club; and Lutheran World Relief projects. Brenda Wolter led a group of women who gifted handmade quilts to graduating high school seniors in May.

LWR totals for 2016:

- 359 Quilts
- 60 Personal Care Kits
- 85 School Kits
- 14 Fabric Kits
- 90 Baby Kits

2016 donations totaled \$7,184.86. They included:

- India Child Sponsorship - \$300.00
- Circle and Convention Offerings sent to WELCA Synodical Women's Organization - \$526.43
- LWR Shipping (Project Comfort) - \$1,050
- NE IA Food Bank - \$300.00
- Cedar Valley Friends of the Family - \$308.80
- ELCA Fund for Leaders (1/4th of the Love Offering) - \$848.50
- Lutheran Chaplain Outreach (1/4th of the Love Offering) - \$848.50
- Thankoffering sent to WELCA Synodical Women's Organization - \$1,732.63
- The remainder of the Love Offering, along with other funds, was used for the annual Christmas Gift list that totaled \$1,270. Christmas gift recipients included Phebe Hospital, Liberia, for solar power generation, Bremwood, Christian Crusaders, Global Health Ministries, Navajo Lutheran Mission, Churchwide Women of the ELCA and Retrieving Freedom.

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Thrivent matching funds were received for the Love Offering. We are grateful for this assistance.

Sunday coffee hours after services continue with the help of Mensfest, the Circles and many donors of cookies and goodies. Lenten suppers were served by the Circles and the Youth. LaVonne Westendorf, Connie Lobeck and Carol Tjaden lead our funeral serving ministry, with assistance from many other women and men of the congregation.

Bonnie Gielau manages the greeting card ministry to St. Peter members. Marilyn Mueller led the Gifts of Love project assisted by Carolee Oberheu. 14 gifts of love baskets were given at Christmas to homebound and newly widowed members.

“Celebrating God’s Gift of Age” was the theme of the North East Iowa Women of the ELCA annual gathering on June 18<sup>th</sup>. 116 women, pastors and presenters gathered at Wartburg College in Waverly for worship, special speakers, interest sessions, good food and fellowship. Elaine Dove, Carol Nystrom and Sheila Mixdorf represented St. Peter WELCA.

“All Anew” is the theme for the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN July 13-16, 2017. Because the Tenth Triennial Gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, the theme resonates with *reformation* and *transformation* images. At the gathering, participants will explore how the Holy Spirit changes us. Prayerfully consider attending all or part of this gathering. More information will can be found at [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org). The Northeast Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization is organizing bus transportation. See the newsletter, St. Peter website or contact a Board member for more information.

We continue to be blessed with tremendous participation and support from the congregation. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheila Mixdorf, President*